



**First Parish Church, Congregational  
On the Village Green  
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts**

*Awaken to the Light and Love of God;  
Be a Joyful Beacon to the World*

**First Parish Church, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Worship, June 11, 10 AM**

**Prelude** Song of India - Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)

**Welcome** by Sue Parker, Deacon

**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** We are met in the presence of God

**People:** **And we do not meet alone.**

**Leader:** With the angels in the highest heaven

**People:** **We gather to worship God.**

**Leader:** With Abraham and Sarah

**People:** **We gather to worship God.**

**Leader:** With the saints of every age

**People:** **We gather to worship God.**

**Leader:** We embark on our own journey of faith

**People:** **God's Holy name be praised.**

**Leader:** God makes of us a great people

**People:** **God's Holy name be praised.**

**Leader:** In the desert and in the den, in barrio and basilica

**People:** **God's Holy name be praised.**

**Leader:** We journey in the presence of God.

**People:** **And we do not journey alone.**

**Hymn** Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer NCH #18

**Children's Moment (for young and young at heart)** Jeanne Westcott

Children will leave for Sunday school classrooms following.

**Solo** How Great Thou Art – Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989), arr. Courtney Ute Gfrerer, solo

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art. And when I think of God, His Son not sparing sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou Art! Then sings my soul....

### **Prayer Intentions**

#### **Pastoral and Silent Prayers.**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Meditation** The Impossible Dream (from 'Man of La Mancha') - Mitch Leigh/Joe Darion

Ute Gfrerer, solo

To dream the impossible dream, to fight the unbeatable foe,  
to bear with unbearable sorrow, to run where the brave dare not go.  
To right the unrightable wrong, to love pure and chaste from afar,  
to try when your arms are too weary, to reach the unreachable star!  
This is my quest, to follow that star, no matter how hopeless, no matter how far;  
to fight for the right, without question or pause, to be willing to march into hell  
for that Heavenly cause! And I know if I'll only be true to this glorious quest,  
that my heart will lie peaceful and calm when I'm laid to my rest.  
And the world will be better for this; that one man, scorned and covered with  
scars, still strove with his last ounce of courage to reach the unreachable stars.

### **Offertory Prayer (Unison)**

Gracious God, we are all one human family. In your love you created us. Through your grace you reach out to us. You are great enough to hold us all in your arms at the same time. Help us to open our hearts to the world that you love. Teach us to weave our lives together. We yield to Spirit, offering what we have to the greater good. In this way, each day, we begin again in love. May you multiply these gifts sharing your love with the world. Amen

### **Scripture Genesis 12:1-9 NRSVUE, Reading Sue Parker**

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So, Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So, he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

### **Sermon “Will You Be a Hero?” Rev. Ellie Richardson**

**Anthem** The Light of God’s Love/This Little Light – Mark Burrows (1971)

Look into my heart, what do you see? God’s light shining in me. And I can reflect God’s image, shine so bright, it will chase away the darkest night. It’s a light that’s brighter than a thousand stars above; the light of God’s love. Deep down in your heart, you’ve got it too, God’s light shining in you. And you can reflect God’s image, shine so bright, it will chase away the darkest night. It’s a light that’s brighter than a thousand stars above; the light of God’s love. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

And we can reflect God's image, shine so bright, it will chase away the darkest night. It's a light that's brighter than a thousand stars above; the light of God's love.

**Hymn** This is a Day of New Beginnings NCH #417

### **Blessing**

**Closing Song** God Be With You – Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

God be with you 'till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you, with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'till we meet again.

**We invite everyone to join us for Coffee Hour Fellowship following Worship!**

**Listening devices are available for those in need; they are at the back of the Sanctuary. Feel free to address a Deacon should you need help.**

**This morning we welcome Rev. Ellie Richardson, as our Worship Leader.**

Rev. Ellie Richardson (She/Her/Hers) is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ having graduated from Andover Newton Theological School. She has served as Minister of Spiritual Development in the historic Andover Association of the Massachusetts Conference (MACUCC); moderator and chair of the Committee on Formation for the historic Andover Association; Associate Conference Minister for Lay & Clergy Leadership Development in the historic MACUCC and the Southern New England Conferences; she is a co-founder of Potentials Coaching & Consulting and is a PCC level trained coach; Ellie also serves churches as an Intentional Transitional Interim Minister.

In addition to church ministry Rev. Ellie serves as co-chair of the COMPASS steering committee, for national setting of the United Church of Christ.

COMPASS provides training and support for Community of Practice programs throughout the denomination.

**We welcome Ute Gfrerer this morning.** A native of Austria, Soprano Ute Gfrerer studied voice and acting in Los Angeles before she started her international career singing operas, operettas and concerts in theaters all over the world, like the Vienna Volksoper, and the Zurich Opera, The Barbican Hall in London, The Megaron Theater in Athens, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Deutsches Theater Munich, NHK Hall in Tokyo, The Virginia Opera, and the Salzburg Music Festival to name but a few. In the past decade she has become a specialist in the music of Kurt Weill, having sung and recorded many of his pieces. In 2018 Ute was asked to be the first person to sing and record a Weill song (The Song of the Blind Girl) that was lost since 1930 and then found in a library in Berlin 88 years later! Last year she was also the judge of the prestigious “Lotte Lenya Voice Competition” at the Eastman School of Music. Ute Gfrerer enjoys doing her own cabaret shows and collaborating with other artists, like visual artist Lisa Rosowsky which whom she created a very personal program around the topic of the Holocaust. [www.fourfathers.com](http://www.fourfathers.com) She coaches young singers in artistic expression and has given masterclasses at the Vienna conservatory, Stanford University, the University of Maryland and NEC. She was also nominated for an IRNE award as “Best Actress in a Musical” for her portrayal of Aldonza in the Musical “The Man of La Mancha”. Ute is also a certified hypnotherapist and astrologer. She lives on the Boston North Shore with her German husband Christoph, her 16 year old daughter Maxine and her singing dog Barolo.

For more information please visit her website [www.ute-gfrerer.com](http://www.ute-gfrerer.com)

**Our Deacon this morning is Sue Parker.**

**Sunday, June 25, 10 AM Worship at Tuck's Point,** with lunch provided by the Vitality Committee following. Come for worship and stay to enjoy visiting with your Church family!

Welcome to all who are new to our Worship time. **To join our mailing list** please fill out a “Welcome Card” to place in the collection plate or contact [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com), 978-526-7661 ext. 1.

**Readers and Greeters** are always needed. To volunteer speak to the Deacons, or you can also sign up online.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-diaconate>

Use the links below to **learn more about First Parish Church** online  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/](http://www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/)  
Instagram [www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/](http://www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/)  
Website [www.firstparishchurch.org/](http://www.firstparishchurch.org/)  
YouTube Worship Services  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvfURhmsH8lfE13FLaRtWcw-pOTC9T2h>

Our FPCC **Compassion child**, Chepkirwok always needs supporters, sign up now. Questions can be directed to Sue Parker, [sueparker33@aol.com](mailto:sueparker33@aol.com).

**You can contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge @PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester**

Click to read the most recent edition of **The Church Bell Newsletter**.

**Thursday Bible Study with Elsa Marshall 4 PM** Join in a lively discussion, Thursdays, 4 PM, on Zoom. The link to join is sent each Thursday morning. Questions contact [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com).

#### **First Parish Staff**

Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music, [hweiss05@comcast.net](mailto:hweiss05@comcast.net)

Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry  
[jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com)

Nancy Klebart, Office Manager, [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com), 978-526-7661 x1

#### **Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee and Conversation**

Every Monday 10 AM-12:30 PM (except holidays) at the First Parish Chapel Hall located behind Santander Bank. Hospitality provided by The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging. Come sit down and talk!

**Visiting Nurses Health Clinic, free.** Held the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month, 10 - 11:45 AM at First Parish Chapel Hall. Services offered include: health assessments, blood pressure screenings, B12 administration, pulse, heart and lung monitoring, blood sugar screenings for diabetics, medication and diet consults. Drop in. Free and open to all.

## **Summer Program announcements:**

### **Breakfast Buddies: Heroic Women of Faith**

Designed for a team of an adult and toddler, Breakfast Buddies meets from 8-9:30 each day for one week, July 17 -21. This year we will meet 5 heroic and iconic women from the Bible who played a vital role in the Christian story. Each session features a themed breakfast, three or more activities, an art experience, and a special surprise! The program is free of charge and preregistration is required.

**The First Parish Third Annual Art Show, “Simplicity, Serenity and Sanctuary”**, will be open for visitors July 23-29 with art being accepted in five age categories, beginning July,15. Submissions can be of any medium and any size. Artists aged 3-199 are encouraged to submit. Art will be judged, and prizes awarded in First and Second place in each category! Get out your crayons and explore the joy creating art can provide!

**Our Bible Experiences week, (otherwise known as VBS)** will run August 14-18 from 4-7 pm. Dinner will be served to participants ages 6-12, when they register for “Safe and Secure: Dressed In Armor”. Each session will offer story, music, movement, art, mindfulness exercises, games and creative writing. Youth ages 14-16 may apply to attend as junior counselors and adult volunteers are needed. Preregistration is required. Questions can be sent to Jeanne at [jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com).

First Parish is looking for **help with streaming** our worship services. Can you volunteer? Full training is provided! Not sure? Sign up to be an assistant to the volunteer who is streaming. We need your help to continue to provide online access to Worship services. Sign up [here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-sunday2) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-sunday2> or contact Richard Smith at [richard.w.smith@gmail.com](mailto:richard.w.smith@gmail.com).

**Our Online Prayer Wall** Give it a try! Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. Feel more connected to the Joys and Concerns of our congregation and hear what's on each other's hearts. You will be touched to receive notifications every time someone prays for you. <https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>



The **Seaside Parish Knitters** meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday (June 1 & 15) of the month at the Chapel, from 1-5 pm. We welcome all to stop by anytime during that time and join in. Over the years we have enjoyed our time knitting and crocheting items for baptismal events at the church, shawls and blankets for friends at home, scarves, neck gators, and helmet liners for our veterans in combat, and mittens and hats for Cape Ann children. We are always looking for knitting needles and yarn that you might be considering “casting” aside, especially wool. Contact Penny Lapham at 978-526-7128.

**Book Group** is a time for church members as well as non-church friends to come together and engage with one another, build relationships, and share in a discussion of books that are of interest to people of various backgrounds. We have fun visiting, conversing about the book and sharing stories and would love to have you join us! Book Group meets on the last Monday of the month and hosting is shared among members.

**Monday, July 10, 6:30 PM** (note the change in date for the summer!) at Liz Loomis' home, 34 Bennett St. Manchester. RSVP to Liz for planning purposes at loomisliz@hotmail.com “Horse” by Geraldine Brooks will be discussed. A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history. Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack. New York City, 1954, Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance. Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse--one studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success. *goodreads*

**Monday, August 28, 6:30 PM** place TBD Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder will be discussed. In *Rough Sleepers*, Tracy Kidder shows how one person can make a difference, as he tells the story of Dr. Jim O'Connell, a man who invented ways to create a community of care for a city's unhoused population, including those who sleep on the streets—the "rough sleepers." When Jim O'Connell graduated from Harvard Medical School and was nearing the end of his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, the chief of medicine made a proposal: Would he defer a prestigious fellowship and spend a year helping to create an organization to bring health care to homeless citizens? Jim took the job because he felt he couldn't refuse. But that year turned into his life's calling. Tracy Kidder spent five years following Dr. O'Connell and his colleagues as they served their thousands of homeless patients. In this book, we travel with O'Connell as he navigates the city, offering medical care, socks, soup, empathy, humor, and friendship to some of the city's most vulnerable citizens. He emphasizes a style of medicine in which patients come first, joined with their providers in what he calls "a system of friends." *goodreads*

**The Stephen Ministry.** The team is currently working closely with the Outreach & Service Committee and the Care Team on this project. There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability, so if you think you might be interested, email [scarh10428@aol.com](mailto:scarh10428@aol.com) to receive and email Zoom invitation. If you would like to discuss the program in greater detail, call Linda Crosby at 978-314-1526 or Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.

**The Outreach and Service Collections Continue - Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel**

**The Open Door and The Grace Center items needed:**

Baking Mixes - Cake, Brownie, Cookie, Muffin, Pancake  
Peanut Butter, Canned Tuna, Chicken, and Turkey, Healthy Snack Items, 100% Juice/Juice Boxes, Breakfast Cereal, Hearty Soups Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Vegetables and Fruits, Macaroni and Cheese, Rice, Noodles, Pasta, Pet Food  
Gift Cards from local grocery markets (Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Market Basket, etc.) so they can purchase butter, cream, and other perishables.

**Troop Needs June, July, August** -Powdered drink mixes- Gatorade, iced tea, lemonade, Dry fruits & nuts, Hard candy, Beef Jerky, Flip Flops, Shower wash, Razors and toiletries

**The Spring Drive of The Global Refugee Mission** of New England  
(Runs until June 24) Assorted Sewing Fabrics and Yarn

Sewing-Knitting Notions: Needles, Thread, Embroidery thread, Measuring tape, Scissors, Thimble, Straight and Safety pins, Marking pencils, Seam ripper, Etc.  
Art and Educational Supplies:

Paper - Lined and Colored, Scissors, Glue, Pencils, Erasers, Pens, Crayons and Markers, Post-its, Envelopes, Hole punchers, Staplers, Creative art packets, Etc.

New-Gently used Stuffed Animals and Toys New and Used, Tents New and Used Sleeping Bags New and Used, Shoes New, Bedding and Blankets